[Dr. Bapu Kaldate]

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1986-87, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Dr. BAPU KALDATE) : We shall now take up the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

I. STATUTORY RESOLUTION SEEKING DISAPPROVAL OF THE COAL MINES NATIONALISATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1986 (NO. 7 OF 1986) PROMULGATED BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE 7TH OCTOBER, 1986.

II. THE COAL MINES NATIONALISATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1986.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, I move :

"That this House disapproves of the Coal Mines Nationalisation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 1986 (No. 7 of 1986) promulgated by the President on the 7th October, 1986.'

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ टेक्नीकल सवालों को लेकर यह बिल लाया गया है, कोर्ट के आदेश को देखते हुए, इसलिए इसमें उस तरह के विरोध की बात नहीं होनी चाहिए। लेकिन जब पार्लियामेंट का सेशन होने वाला था तो उसके इतने नजदीक आर्डिनेंस लाने की कोई खास जरूरत नहीं थी। दूसरी बात जो सबसे बड़ी बात है और जिसको लेकर मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार इस पर विचार करे कि इतने वर्षों के बाद भी इन दोनों कानूनों को एक जगह लाकर एक सुसंगत कानून कोल माइन्स के बारे में बनाना, चाहे कोकिंग का हो, चाहे नान-कोकिंग का, इस सरकार से सम्भव नहीं हो सका—यह अत्यन्त दुख की बात है। वक्त काफी था जिसमें यह कर लिया जाना चाहिए था। दूसरी बात यह है कि इन दोनों कानूनों के अंदर इस बात का प्राविजन नहीं है कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर ने जो पहले काम चलाया उस में जो माइन्स की स्लाटरिंग हुई, जो उन की बर्बादी हुई जिस के चलते बाद में राष्ट्रीयकरण होने पर हम को काफी पैसा खर्च करना पड़ा उसका हर्जाना, राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति को बर्बाद करने का हर्जाना उनसे वसूला जाये। और उसको उन के कंपंसेशन में मिन्हा किया जाये। इस बात का इस अध्यादेश में भी प्राविजन नहीं है। इसलिये मैंने इस आर्डिनेंस का इन दो मुद्दों पर विरोध किया है। लेकिन अभी इस प्रश्न को लेकर कोल उद्योग के संबंध में जो सरकार की नीति है उस संबंध में मैं आना चाहूंगा ताकि इस पर गंभीरता से सदन विचार कर सके।

यह सच है कि कोल उद्योग के अंदर जब से उसका राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ है। 1418 करोड़ रुपयों का घाटा हुआ है। अगर सिर्फ दो कंपनियों को ईस्टर्न कोल फील्ड कंपनी और बी सी एल के घाटे को जोड़ दें तो 1695 करोड़ का घाटा हो जाएगा और अभी जो स्थिति है उसमें भी सिर्फ दो ही कंपनियां नार्दर्न कोल फील्ड्स और साउथ ईस्टर्न कोल फील्ड्स यही केवल मुनाफे में जा रही हैं ऐसा अंदाजा है कि इस साल भी कोल इंडिया करीब 240 करोड़ के घाटे में जाएगी। इसीलिये यह चिन्ता का विषय है और इस पर गंभीरता से सदन को

विचार करना चाहिए। मैंने सोचा था कि हमारे माननीय मंत्री ही इस पर गंभीरता से विचार करेंगे, शायद वह करते भी रहे हैं लेकिन इधर हमारे मंत्री महोदय को एक दिक्कत हुई कि उन्होंने पोर्ट फोलियो तो ले लिया पब्लिक सेक्टर का और वे एडवोकेट हैं प्राइवेट सेक्टर के। इससे उनको दिक्कत हो गयी है और इसलिये शायद गंभीरता से इन सवालों पर वह विचार नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। मेरे लिये यह इसलिये भी यह जरूरी है कि कोयला एक ऐसा साधन है जिस का दाम बढ़ने से हमारी इकोनामी बहुत ज्यादा प्रभावित होती है और हमारी इकोनामी को हाई कास्ट इकोनामी बनाने में कोयला उद्योग का भी, अभी भी बहुत बड़ा हाथ है क्योंकि हमारे बहुत से उद्योग अभी भी कोयले पर ही निर्भर हैं। इसलिये इस पर गंभीरता से विचार करने की जरूरत है और इसीलिए मैं कुछ बिन्दुओं को उठा रहा हूं।

सरकार पहली गलती यह कर रही है कि अभी ज्यादातर ओपन कास्ट माइन्स की ओर जा रही है और जो अंडर ग्राउन्ड माइन्स हैं उनको नेगलेक्ट कर रही है। उनकी उपेक्षा कर रही है। इसका घातक परिणाम हो रहा है और होने जा रहा है। उसमें सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि हमारा कोकिंग कोल कुछ जगहों को छोड़ कर बाकी सभी जगह अंडर ग्राउन्ड माइन्स में है और चूंकि अंडर ग्राउन्ड माइन्स पर सरकार उचित ध्यान नहीं दे रही है इसलिये कोकिंग कोल का उत्पादन कम हो गया है और हम तेजी से भारी तादाद में कोकिंग कोल इंपोर्ट करने की हालत में जा रहे हैं। इंपोर्ट की प्राइस तो माननीय मंत्री जी ही बतायेंगे, हमारे लिहाज से कोकिंग कोल का जो हम इंपोर्ट करते हैं वह 13.14 सौ रुपये टन से ज्यादा होता है अगर हम इस दिशा में जायेंगे तो कुछ वर्षों बाद अच्छे किस्म के तमाम कोयला विदेशों से मंगाना पड़ेगा और वह और भी हाई प्राइस में चला जाएगा। यह पालिसी बहुत घातक है। दूसरी तरफ यह नहीं सरकार सोच रही है कि ओपेन कास्ट माइन्स, जिनमें लो ग्रेड का कोल आम तौर पर रहता है उसकी उचित प्राइस नहीं है इसलिये सिर्फ उसको चलाने से मुनाफा नहीं हो सकता। उसकी प्राइस कम होती है। इसलिये जितना प्राफिट सरकार सोच रही है वह नहीं हो पायेगा। कोल उद्योग को एक मंत्री की अवधि से या एक पदाधिकारी टर्म की अवधि से नहीं जोड़ना चाहिए। उसके लिये लांग टर्म व्यू लेना चाहिए। सरकार यह लांग टर्म व्यू नहीं ले रही है और हम समझते हैं कि निकट भविष्य में यह देश बहुत बड़े गहरे संकट में चला जायेगा। इसलिये मैं इस ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं।

सरकार के पास कोई एडवांस प्लानिंग नहीं है। एक लेयर से हमने बहुत सी जगहों में कोल निकाल लिया है। अब हम को दूसरी लेयर में जाना चाहिए। उसमें उत्पादन कास्ट बढ़ जायेगी क्योंकि ज्यों-ज्यों गहरे में जाते हैं कोयले के उत्पादन का खर्च बढ़ जाता है। हमारे अफसरान क्या कर रहे हैं कि सेकिंड लेयर जो काफी गहरी है उसके लिए एडवांस प्लानिंग न करके उसके लिए कोयला निकालने की कोई योजना नहीं बना रहे हैं जिसके घातक परिणाम निकट भविष्य में आने वाले हैं। उदाहरण के लिए सी. सी. एल की खास कर्णपूरा कोलियरी में एडवांस प्लानिंग न होने के कारण कोयले का उत्पादन खर्च अभी प्रति टन 2200 रु. है लेकिन उसे हम बेचेंगे 240 रु. में इसी तरह से ए. के. कोलियरी में 2000 रु सौदा कोलियरी में 800 रु. भरकंडा कोलियरी में 500 रु. प्रति टन उत्पादन खर्च है। और भ्रष्टाचार इतना है कि स्टापिंग का सारा पैसा गबन हो रहा है और सरकार यह कहती है कि कांट्रेक्ट सिस्टम लागू करके इकानामी करेंगे लेकिन असली बात यह है कि स्टापिंग न करके जो कि माइंस के लिए जरूरी है, कोयले का उत्पादन घट रहा है और भारी खतरा मोल

[श्री चतुरानन मिश्र]

लिया जा रहा है। इसका क्या परिणाम होगा कि सी. सी. एल. जो बराबर प्राफिट करती थी, वह भारी घाटे में जा रही है। ये आंकड़े मंत्री महोदय के सामने नहीं रखे जाते और इसलिए मैंने आपका ध्यान इस ओर दिलाया कि आप किस दिशा में जा रहे हैं जरा इस पर सोचिए।

श्रीमन, सरकार मशीनीकरण और हाई टेक्नालाजी की ओर ज्यादा जा रही है और मनुष्य की शक्ति पर विचार करना उसने छोड़ दिया है। सिर्फ मशीन कैसे मिले, इस पर वे विचार कर रहे हैं, पता नहीं हमारे अफसरों को भी इसमें कुछ कमीशन मिलता है, स्विस बैंक में खाता खोलने का मौका मिलता है। इन मशीनों का अंधाधुंध आयात हमको बेतहाशा घाटे का सौदा लग रहा है। वर्तमान मंत्री भी मशीनीकरण के बहुत बड़े समर्थक हैं। धेमो मेन कोलियरी जी ई. सी. एल. की है उसका उत्पादन जब मैन्युएल था 35 हजार टन था वह भी मशीनीकरण के बाद 13 हजार टन हो गया है। उस माइन्स का जियालजिकल कंडीशन जो था उसकी ओर ध्यान नहीं रखा गया और वहां करोड़ों रुपयों का मशीन आयात किया गया जो कि बेकार साबित हुआ और हमारा उत्पादन भी घट गया। इन सारी बातों का ध्यान नहीं रखेंगे तो हम देश को कैसे ले जा सकेंगे? अगर आप विदेशों की मशीनरी मंगा कर उसको खड़ा करना चाहते हैं तो इससे देश नहीं बनेगा।

मैं एक और बहुत आवश्यक बिन्दु की ओर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। प्रोजेक्ट का काम समय पर पूरा नहीं होता। इसके चलते घाटा होता ही है, इस पर कोई चैक भी नहीं है। मैं एक दो प्रोजेक्ट का नाम लेकर आपको बतलाता हूं। ई.सी.एल. सीतलापुर कोलियरी को 1984-85 में पूरा होना चाहिए था, लेकिन वह 1988-89 में भी पूरी होने वाली नहीं है और आधुनिक तरीके से लांग वॉल सिस्टम उसमें इंट्रोड्यूस किया जाना था जिससे कास्ट घट जाती है, लेकिन नतीजा यह हुआ है कि 479 लाख रुपए से उसको बनना था वह 1424 लाख रूपए पर पहुंच चुका है और अभी भी वह प्रोजेक्ट पूरा नहीं हुआ है।

मैं इस सिलसिले में यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि जिस तरीके से हम लोग जा रहे हैं उससे निकट भविष्य में हम लोग संकट में पड़ जाएंगे और भारत का पूरा औद्योगीकरण ही संकट में धंस जाएगा। इसके अतिरिक्त कुछ घाटे के कारणों के संबंध में मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा ताकि हमारे खान विभाग, हमारे मंत्री लोग सब समझ सकें। वे ज्यादातर बातों पर ऊपरी तौर पर विचार करते हैं और विदेशों की नकल करने में लगे हुए हैं जिससे कि देश की कोई प्रगति नहीं हो रही है, चाहे वह आस्ट्रेलिया हो, चाहे कोरिया हो, उस पर मैं बाद में कभी बताऊंगा। घाटे में ऐसे कुछ कारण हैं जिन पर सरकार विचार नहीं कर रही है, उस दिशा में नहीं सोच रही है जिसकी ओर मैं सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। जब से कोयले का राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ, इन्होंने 55 नये कोयला प्रोडक्शन प्रोजेक्ट खोलने का तय किया था। जिसमें सिर्फ दो को कर पाये और बाकी 53 को नहीं कर पाये।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : 1973 में?

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: हां, 1973 की मैं बता रहा हूं। 73 में राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ तो उसके बाद 55 नये प्रोजेक्ट लिये। इनमें से सिर्फ दो को पूरा किया गया और 53 को पूरा नहीं किया गया। नतीजा यह हुआ कि पुराने कोल माइन्स पर हम निर्भर रहे जिसमें कास्ट ज्यादा होती है। नये कोल माइन्स पर नहीं बनाये जिसकी कास्ट कम होती है। अगर हम उसमें उत्पादन करते, दोनों मिलाकर एक समान कास्ट होती तो हम राष्ट्र का खर्चा बचा सकते थे। लेकिन सरकार ने ऐसा नहीं किया। ऐसा होने के पीछे मजदूर कसूरवार नहीं है, मैनेजमेंट कसूरवार नहीं है। यह जो सरकार है और पूंजी-

वादी व्यवस्था है यह कसूरवार है। अगर यह प्रोजेक्ट चालू होते तो 79 मिलियन टन कोयला ज्यादा पैदा होता। क्योंकि यह रेलवे कैरी नहीं कर सकता था और पूंजीवादी व्यवस्था के चलते इसका उपयोग नहीं हो सकता था इसी लिए घाटा अनिवार्य है। चाहे आप किसी को लेकर बैठ जाइये यह घाटा होगा ही। चाहे भगवान बुद्ध हों, महात्मा गांधी हों, जिससे क्राइस्ट्स हो तब भी घाटा होगा। अगर यह पूंजीवादी व्यवस्था बनी रहेगी तो यह घाटे का सबसे बड़ा कारण बना रहेगा क्योंकि क्षमता के मुताबिक उत्पादन होने पर बाजार में खपत नहीं है और क्षमता के मुताबिक काम नहीं करने से घाटा अनिवार्य है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. बापू कालदाते): जो समय आपका था उसके मुताबिक आपका समय हो चुका है।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: आप और जानना चाहेंगे इसलिए मैं बता रहा हूं। दूसरा कारण यह है कि पावर फैल्योर के चलते कितने कोल का उत्पादन कम हो जाता है यह आपको पता होगा। अगर बिजली फेल न हो तो कोयला उद्योग का घाटा आधा हो जाये। तीसरा कारण यह भी है कि जो हमारी मशीनें हैं उसका आधा ही यूटीलाइजेशन हो रहा है। 55 परसेंट से ज्यादा यूटीलाइजेशन नहीं होता। चौथा बड़ा कारण यह है कि करोड़ों टन पिट स्टाक का बराबर जमा रहना। पांचवां कारण पब्लिक सेक्टर में जो हमारा बाकी रह जाता है उस पर कोल इंडिया को तो बैंक को हाई इंटरेस्ट देना पड़ता है, कम्पाउंड इंटरेस्ट चार्ज होता है। इस कारण से बड़ा घाटा होता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय को इस विषय से अवगत कराना चाहूंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा. बापू कालदाते): यह अन्तिम होगा ऐसा मैं मानता हूं।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: थोड़ा सा टाइम और दें दीजिए। यहां पर कहा जाता है कि मजदूर यहां काम नहीं करते या बहुत कम काम करते हैं। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने यहां तक कह दिया कि सारी दुनिया में भारत के मजदूर बहुत ही इनएफिशियंट हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा वह भी मजदूरों पर बहुत हमला करते हैं।

श्री कल्पनाथ राय: यह तो हमला नहीं करते।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: ठीक है आपकी तरक्की कर दें। हम को अपनी बात कहने दीजिए। हम मजदूर लोग काम करते हैं तो नई वैल्यू एडिड करते हैं। नई वैल्यू एडिड से हम अपना पैसा ले लेते हैं तो हमारा कोई कसूर नहीं है। 84-85 की फिगर देता हूं। हमने 3,285 रुपये हर महीना नई वैल्यू एडिड की। टोटल बैनिफिट एमालूमेंट्स हमने उठाया 1,880 रुपये। तो आधे से थोड़ा ज्यादा हमने लिया है बाकी सब राष्ट्र को हमने दे दिया। (समय की घंटी) आपने समय की घंटी बजा दी इसलिए ज्यादा नहीं कहूंगा। इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि प्रतिवर्ष जो हम न्यू वैल्यू एडिड करते हैं उसमें से अपने मजदूर लेते हैं। हम को कोई दूसरा नहीं देता। घाटे का मुख्य कारण मजदूर नहीं है बल्कि जैसा मैंने बताया वे कारण हैं। मैं दो बातों पर सिर्फ बोलूंगा। पहली बात यह है कि मजदूरों से सहयोग लेने की बात है। मंत्री महोदय ने हम सभी ट्रेड यूनियनों को बैठा कर एक योजना बनाई जिसके मुताबिक हम लोग सहमत हो गये और कहा कि हम लोग इसमें सहयोग करेंगे और उत्पादन को बढ़ाने में, प्रोडक्टिविटी बढ़ाने में सहयोग करेंगे और इसके बाद सर्व-सम्मत राय थी केवल एक-आध लोगों ने मुश्किल से ऐतराज किया होगा फिर भी उस योजना को आज तक सरकार लागू नहीं कर सकी। बिना मजदूरों के सहयोग के आप अगर समझ रहे हैं कि आप पूरे उद्योगों को चला लेंगे यह सम्भव नहीं है, विश्व में कहीं भी सम्भव नहीं है।

[श्री चतुरानन मिश्रा]

दूसरी बात इस सिल-सिले में मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि कोयला खदान क्षेत्र में कोयला निकालने के लिए समाज के सबसे उपेक्षित लोग, हरिजन और आदिवासी लोग ज्यादा हैं। वहां पर आजकल क्या हो रहा है ? बहुत बड़ी संख्या में वहां पर बेकारी फैली हुई है। कोयला उत्पादन का 50 परसेन्ट से ज्यादा मशीनों की तरफ जा रहा है। इन लोगों को नियोजन नहीं मिल पा रहा है। आप उनका भू-अर्जन भी करना चाहते हैं। लेकिन आपने नीति बना ली है कि आप उनकी भूमि का अर्जन तो करेंगे, उनको उजाड़ेंगे भी, लेकिन उनको नौकरी नहीं देंगे, उनको घर नहीं देंगे और उनके जीवन निर्वाह के लिए कोई इंतजाम भी नहीं करेंगे। इसके चलते भूमि का अर्जन भी नहीं हो रहा है। बिहार और बंगाल के क्षेत्रों में आपने जो नीति अपना रखी है उसके चलते भू-अर्जन भी नहीं हो सकेगा। इसके कारण आपकी सारी की सारी प्रोजेक्ट्स में देर हो जायेगी, आपका काम आगे नहीं बढ़ पाएगा। इसलिए मैं यह सुझाव देना चाहता हूं कि आप यह काम कीजिये कि आप बड़ी-बड़ी मशीनों से ओवर बर्डन निकालिये। इस देश की बेरोजगारी की समस्या को देखते हुए मशीनों के ओवर बर्डन से हटने के बाद कोयले को मेन्युअली भी निकालने की कोशिश कीजिए। आप इस देश के मशीनीकरण में बेलेन्स पैदा कीजिए और बेलन्स के साथ मेकेनाइजेशन कीजिए। लेकिन आप यह काम नहीं कर रहे हैं। आपकी जो कोयले की नीति है वह अदरदर्शितापूर्ण है। इससे सारा राष्ट्र एक खतरनाक दिशा में जा रहा है। इस नीति के चलते 5-7 वर्ष में कोयले की कास्ट और भी ज्यादा हो जाएगी जिससे यह राष्ट्र उठा नहीं कर सकेगा। इसलिए मैंने इन बुनियादी बातों की तरफ आपका ध्यान दिलाया है और इसलिए मैं आर्डिनेन्स के खिलाफ हूं।

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 and the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, while moving the Bill for acceptance, I would first like to clarify this misunderstanding about the Ordinance. It is not as if we really wanted to bring the Ordinance when we knew that the Bill is to be brought. But the fact is that because the decision of the court, to correct which this Bill is being brought, had to come as directed by the court into effect by 17-10-1986. At that time, the Parliament was not in session and, therefore, there was no alternative but to bring the Ordinance when our objective was clear that we wanted to plug the loopholes or the affects of the Bill. I would in short like to submit that this Bill is being brought to correct this lacuna which has resulted on account of the Court's interpretation.

As is known, Sir, the coal mines in the country were nationalised in two stages. At first all the coking coal mines except the captive mines of the steel industry which were known to exist were nationalised by the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972. In 1973, all other coal mines were nationalised under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. The definition of 'mine' in the two Nationalisation Acts specifically includes all coal belonging to the owner whether in stock or in transit, and all coal under production in a mine on the date of nationalisation. The amount mentioned in the Schedule to the two Nationalisation Acts include the value of the aforesaid coal stocks and other assets as per the definition of the 'mine' in the two Acts. However, certain parties went to the court claiming that the value of the coal stocks lying at the mines at the time of nationalisation had not been credited to their

account and that necessary payments should be made to them for that coal. There are some judicial pronouncements to the effect that the coal stocks had to be taken into account for balancing the position on the date of nationalisation and directing the coal companies to recast the account and give credit, if any, to the value of such coal stocks within a stipulated time. If these judicial pronouncements are to be acted upon, it will involve double payment and reopening of the accounts of all the collieries numbering about one thousand. This would also be contrary to the spirit of the enactment passed by Parliament in 1972 and 1973 inasmuch as the value of coal stocks had already been included in the amounts mentioned in the Schedules to the Acts. Certain parties had gone to the courts pressing for the implementation of the judicial pronouncements which, if implemented as stated earlier would involve double payment and a reopening of accounts. The court had also directed to comply with the pronouncements within a specified date, as stated just now, by October 1986. As the Parliament was not in session, it was proposed to clarify the intention of the legislation without ambiguity so as to make it clear that the value of the coal stocks had already been included in the amount mentioned in the Schedule to the Acts by promulgating the Ordinance.

As certain practical difficulties were experienced in the implementation of the provisions of the Nationalisation Act opportunity was also availed to remove those difficulties. Accordingly we are bringing forward this Bill to take care of these things. This is a simple legislation only to take care of the difficulty created by the interpretation, which is strictly technical. Although in terms of the definition of 'mine', the stocks are included, we have already made the payment, for the stock, but because of this technical innovation we are now in a difficulty and that is why to correct that we have done this thing. I entirely agree although I am sure there cannot be much of a debate as far as this Bill is concerned, but Chaturananji has rightly taken this opportunity to discuss the whole situation in the coal industry. And I would be only too glad to meet all the points and I want this to be discussed in national interest in its depth. I would request all the hon. Members to please give their views as Chaturananji has already given about the coal industry, how we can make it profitable in the interests of the country, profitable in the interests of the nation. This is a matter which needs to be discussed in detail.

Sir, I do not want at this stage to comment on all the points raised by the hon. Member, Shri Chaturanan Mishra, although I can only say one thing. Sir, you are in the Chair at the moment. And you know very well the very famous saying of Samarath Ram Dass. I will put it in Hindi.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu) : Put it in any language.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I will translate it in English also. But let me first quote that :

पूर्ण ग्रंथ पढ़े बिना दंते उसे जो दूषणा वह तो पढ़त मूर्ख ।

मूर्खों के लक्षण उन्होंने दिये हैं, सौ लक्षण दिये हैं उनमें एक लक्षण यह है ।

मेरा बड़ी नम्रता से यह कहना है कि जो कुछ मैंने पब्लिक सेक्टर के बारे में और खास कर कोल सैक्टर का उदाहरण देते हुए कहा है उसको भाई लोगों ने पढ़ा ही नहीं। एक तो पढ़ा नहीं और यदि पढ़ा तो फिर जान-बूझकर उसको डिस्टार्ड करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। मेरे सारे कथन में, वक्तव्यों में कहीं भी, एक भी जगह यह नहीं है कि पब्लिक सेक्टर को समाप्त करना चाहिए,

[श्री बसंत साठे]

पब्लिक सेक्टर का प्राइवेटाइजेशन करना चाहिए । यह मैंने कहीं नहीं कहा । यह कहीं नहीं कहा है, मेरा तो इतना है कहना है कि इस में दो मत नहीं है कि पब्लिक सेक्टर को राष्ट्रीय-हित में एफिशियेट बनाना है, उत्पादकक्षम बनाना है । यह बहुत ही आवश्यक है इसके बगैर हम संसाधनों का किसी भी तरह से जुटाव नहीं कर पाएंगे । मैं अभी इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं बाकी खुलासा मैं जब जबाब दूंगा तब करूंगा ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : आप तो अलौकिक भाषा में बोलते है, हम लोग लौकिक भाषा में बोलते हैं ।

श्री बसंत साठे : मैं तो लौकिक भाषा ही बोल रहा हूं । अलौकिक नहीं है, यह तो बिलकुल लौकिक है ।

इस समय इंट्रोडक्शन की स्टेज पर मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं।

The qutstions were proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE) : Both the Bill and the Resolution are open for a discussion. Shri Sen.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Bill that has come before us, as the hon. Minister has started, is of a technical nature. In regard to the Resolution moved by my colleague, Mr. Mishra, the Minister has tried to explain that the Ordinance was necessary. Anyway, I would not like to go into that aspect.

Even in regard to the contents of the Bill, though Satheji has said that it is of a technical nature, there are some points which ultimately give enough powers to the bureaucracy in the industry which may be misused against the employees and even against some of the officers. I would like to point out Section 6 of the Bill which says :

"...the services of any officer or other employee employed in a coking coal mine or coke oven plant shall be liable to be transferred to any other coking coal mine or coke oven plant and such transfer shall not entitle such officer or other employee to any compensation under this Act or any other law for the time being in force and no such claim shall be entertained by any court, tribunal or other authority."

Now, I object to this clause. Although I do not object to other technical contents of this Bill, but this clause, if it exists in the Bill, will lead to repression of the employees. Already in the coal industry during the regime of the previous Chairman, as also presently, the coal industry workers and the employees are subjected to severe repression from the authorities. You know what the previous Chairman did for one day strike and how many days of leave were deducted, how much of wages and deducted. Therefore, if such a clause exists, I feel, that bureaucracy in the coal industry will be given a handle to suppress the workers, the employees, etc. more and more and this will further impair the effeciency of the Public Sector.

Instead of going into other technicalities of the Bill, I would take the opportunity to touch some of the points about the public sector unit, and how it is functioning. But I am a little diffident. Of course, the Minister has explained that he never preached for privatisation and he does not stand for privatisation, and he stands for efficiency of the public sector. But Mr. Sathe, I do not know whether what has been reported is correct or not but even your own writing indicates that you are a known votary and protagonist of privatisation. This is the impression carried by everybody; it is the talk that in the Cabinet, in the Council of Ministers, at least there is one Minister who openly decries the Public Sector. Today, you may say that

you are for the public sector. But this was the impression created among the people. Whatever it is, I take you by your words, Taking into account...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : After Mr. Gorbachev's Visit, certain changes have taken place.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I am not bothered what somebody else has said. If you really want to criticise, if hon. Members really want to criticise what I had written, please point out a single paragraph or a single sentence from my writings which have been published—I cannot withdraw it, it is part of my book, revised edition of my book—and say that that is why this allegation against you is being made. Then, that would be something. Give the dog its name and shoot it. But if you go criticising and if you go on making allegations...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Fair enough. We shall do that also.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You do that. Then, I will reply.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE) : Let us come to the Coal Mines Nationalisation Laws (Amendment) Bill.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : I am coming to that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is relevant, I agree. My articles are relevant. That is why, I say, please point out where I have said anything against the public sector.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : अगर कोयले में हाथ डालेंगे तो कुछ तो हाथ काला होगा ही । मगर सूकोमल सेन क्या कर रहे हैं यह सवाल नहीं है। इनके एक सहयोगी तिवारी जी ने इनके बारे में क्या कहा है वह शायद साठे जी ने पढ़ा होगा।

श्री वसंत साठे : मैंने पढ़ा है।

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : The hon. Minister has clarified now. When I said, the hon. Minister is against the public sector and he stands for privatisation—from his writings and speeches it appears so—I thought—that is why, I did not bring all the documents here—the hon. Minister would gladly accept it and proudly say 'Yes, I am for privatisation', because that was the impression created. Anyway, now he says he is for the public sector. I accept his words. I take it that what he has said in the House is true and what appeared in the newspapers may not be true.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It has not appeared even in the newspapers. It has only appeared in the minds of some people who are deliberately prejudiced and who want to distort whatever I have said; in their minds, not even in the newspapers.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : It is all right. It is on record that you are for the public sector.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I am for the public sector.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Very good. Thank you.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Efficient public sector.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : You have added an adjective.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : There are two alternatives. Make it more efficient or discard it. You are in favour of discarding it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : That is your interpretation.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Let us leave it at that. Now, the point is about this area of the public sector. So much can be said about nationalisation of the coal industry. Since nationalisation in 1972-1973, during these twelve years, we ex

[Shri Sukomal Sen]

pected that there will be some improvement. It is a national wealth, but it is exhaustible. It is not that we will go on getting coal. It is exhaustible. How this is being managed, how this is being handled and how this wealth is being protected, these are the points which arise. Now, when we discuss all these points, many cases of inefficiency, incompetence as well as corruption arise. Time is short. You may ring the bell. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE) : I will ring the bell at the proper time.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : I would like the hon. Minister to see that the functioning of the Coal India is improved. Now, there was an allegation against the previous Chairman. The MPs enquiry committe said that the previous Chairman Mr. Gujral had manipulated the coal production figures, that it was deliberately inflated. The figure was deliberately inflated to show that under his regime coal production was increasing though it was not actually increasing. I think, there is a secret circular that there should be no increase in the production of coal. When that report came out, that report suggested that these types of persons should not be placed in any other public sector industry. But what do we find, Mr. Sathe? Mr. Gujral was shifted from Coal India and placed as chairman of another public sector unit, that is, FCI. What is this? After the allegation was proved that the figures are manipulated, manoveured, he was placed chairman of another public sector organisation. Another Mr. Mitra was chairman of BCCL. Against him also there was a charge. What has been done to those officers who have deliberately mishandled the public sector units and submitted wrong figures to earn credit for themselves? These are the points to be answered by you. Otherwise, it is no use saying that I want efficient public sector. Inefficiency is proved against somebody but nothing is done against them. On the contrary, they are given protection and reward. Those points should be replied to.

Now, during these 12 years of nationalisation, the prices of coal have been increased several times. For example, in 1974 in CIL the price of coal per tonne was Rs. 47.30 whereas in 1986 it has come to Rs. 210.30 per tonne. The increase is more than four times. What is the result of increasing the prices again and again? The public sector units have become areas where through administered prices the Government is raising more and more money, and thereby they are trying to fleece the people. Public sector units should not be the area through which the people should be fleeced or taxed more and more. This is one of the aspects to which we should give some attention as to how the public sector units are being used by the Government to reap more and more money ultimately making the common people to suffer.

About productivity also, the hon. Minister very often has said in this House that our Indian workers do not work and, therefore, the productivity is low. He compares our worker very often to the labour of West Germany or Australia or the Soviet Union. Now let us see what the reason is. In spite of mechanisation in the coalmines, why productivity is not going up, why it is not going up. The reason is that the machines that have been imported and introduced in coalmines for mechanisation are faulty. And who is responsible for this import of faulty machines? It is the Government and the bureaucracy who are importing the faulty mechines and they are solely responsible for this. So, these aspects have also to be seen. Simply workers need not be blamed or punished.

Inefficiency and incompetence of the Government or the bureaucracy should also be taken into consideration.

Coming to coal, in spite of the nationalisation of the coalmines, is it not a fact that even now private mining is taking place? It is a fact. Not only that how is it that the abondoned mines are being taken over by private contractors, and surreptitiously coal is being extracted. This is resulting in fatal accidents. Several accidents have taken place in the coalmines of our country because of this. So, such a thing is leading to a situation where it is impossible to develop any efficiency or competence in the coal-mining areas. These points have to be fully replied to by the hon. Minister. While talking about efficiency, let us see what the condition of a worker is in the coalmines. Mr. Sathe, definitely, you have visited coalmines many a time. Still miserable conditions exist in the coalmine areas. Basic amenities are not there. Even drinking water is not available in many coalmine areas. The workers live like beasts of burden. When such are the conditions how can you expect that workers to put in more work? They are working hard, despite the fact that they are not given proper amenities. But in all the coalmine areas miserable conditions exist. There is no proper attempt to uplift the conditions of workers, to improve their working conditions. This situation has to be looked into.

[The Deputy Chairman] in the Chair.

Then, Madam, there are safety rules. They are violated. So many accidents take place. These issues have been taken up. The safety rules are flagrantly violated and a number of accidents have taken place. What is the mechanism with the coal industry authorities, which looks into various guarantees that workers will come out safe from the pits. These safety rules have to be enforced vigorously if you want the industry to function more efficiently and competently.

As regards workers, the hon. Minister must be knowing that in 1983 a bipartite agreement was signed. Can you tell me, till today, and we are at the fag end of 1986, so during the last three years, why the bipartite agreement has not been implemented? Why the workers are forced to go on strike for the implementation of the bipartite agreement which was signed as far back as 1983? These points have to be replied to. Only saying "I want efficiency" is not enough. Efficiency in the public sector cannot come out of the sky, cannot come out of the blue; it has to be created through some methods, through some activities and measures by the Government.

Then there was a decision, Mr. Minister...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have to address the Chair.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: I am very sorry, Madam. Madam, after nationalisation till now, there was a decision at the level of the Government that at least one member of the family whose land is occupied by the Government for mining should be given a job. Now what is the position? During these 12 years only 12,000 people have been absorbed from these land oustees. Can the Minister say why at least one member of all the families whose land has been taken over by the Government for mining have not been given jobs? That has to be done. On the contrary, I know that in the Eastern Coalfields there was an agreement between the unions and the industry that jobs would be given. Even that agreement has been violated, has not been implemented. These are the issues which have to be looked into.

Then the other part of the story is underground fire is raging in coal mines.

□ [Shri Sukomal Sen]

While underground fire is raging, high quality coal is being destroyed. The Government is unable to tackle it. In Raniganj—Jharia coal area fire is still raging. Not only that, Raniganj town is caving in due to reckless mining by private owners. Caving in started at that time. Now after nationalisation, during the last 12 years no effort has been made to save the township and the whole township has started caving in. People there have started an agitation. The State Government has taken up the issue with the Central Government. Nothing tangible has been done to save the township. This is the efficiency of the Coal Authority!

Then my last point is, after nationalisation Government said that only viable pits would be allowed to function; those which were not viable should be closed down. Already in the Eastern Coalfields, 4,000 workers have been thrown into the streets because some coalmines have been closed down. Now it is reported that another 12 mines are going to be closed. These 12 mines employ 10,000 workers and if these are closed, then 10,000 more workers will be thrown into the streets. So in all 14,000 workers in Eastern Coalfields alone will be thrown into the streets. I would like to know what the Government is going to do with these workers, whether new coalmines are being opened, when they will be absorbed, and during this period what the workers will do? All these questions have to be answered if you really want the workers to apply themselves fully to their work and the efficiency to improve. Then, participation of workers in management has been discussed many times. But there is no participation on the basis of equality. They say, workers' participation. What is the workers' involvement? Unless and until they are allowed to participate in management on an equal footing, what is the meaning of this talk of workers' involvement and workers' participation? Till now nothing has been done about it. So, I feel that these points have to be clarified.

Madam, about the technical aspects of the Bill I do not want to elaborate anymore. Thank you.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU (Orissa): Madam Deputy Chairman, I stand to support this Coal Mines Nationalisation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1986. As has been pointed out by the honourable Minister, this Bill is to remove certain lacunae and plug certain loopholes in the law. I hope honourable Members on both sides of the House are almost agreed that they want to plug the loopholes because through the existence of such lacunae they do not want that the previous owners should take advantage and benefit to a huge extent while the workers suffer. So, fundamentally, if we read through the different clauses of the Bill, the Bill tries to remove the difficulties which have been found in the decision of the Supreme Court.

Firstly, clause 1(2) clarifies that the amendments to the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 shall be deemed to have come into force in 1972 and that the amendments to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 shall be deemed to have come into force on 1st May, 1973. Then the Bill says how the payment was to be made, now the declaration was made under the statute at that time, how the date was fixed and how, after that if the amount is not fixed and if it is going to be enhanced in future dates how it is likely to be manipulated. So, they put a stop to it. This is one point of clarity which has been brought about under this new Bill and it is very laudable, no doubt about it.

Then, clause 4 also tries to clarify certain points and says that some clauses which are redundant will be deleted.

Then, another important clause which is given here is clause 6, which says :

> "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or in any other law for the time being in force, the services of any officer or other employee employed in a coking coal mine or coke oven plant shall be liable to be transferred to any other coking coal mine or coke oven plant and such transfer shall not entitle such officer or other employee to any compensation under this Act or any other law for the time being in force and no such claim shall be entertained by any court, tribunal or other authority."

Now the whole question is subject to the natural law. Mr. Sukomal Sen has rightly expressed the apprehension that it might lead to bureaucratic oppression sometimes. But I think this law cannot taken away natural justice, and natural justice is that a man who is transferred must be guaranteed the minimum privileges that he has already been enjoying at the place from where he is being transferred. That cannot be taken away from him at any time. At the same time, what I feel is that an ordinary worker, the common worker, may not be harassed by being transferred under this clause because he is also an important factor in production. The honourable Minister may give his assessment about that during the course of his reply. This is very important.

While welcoming this Bill, I have to make some more points. There is a provision in clause 11(c) which says :

> "(c) after sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—
>
> "(5) If, after the appointed day the Central Government is satisfied, whether from any information received by it or otherwise, that there has been any error, omission or misdescription in relation to the particular of a coal mine included in the Schedule or the name and address of the owner of any such coal mine, it may, by notification, correct such error, ommission or misdescription..."

This gives a power so that a man can be given justice, but I want to tell the honourable Minister that it may reach the prodigal. The methodology about where to apply and how to apply should be provided so that it does not create further complication. That is my apprehension.

Then, coming to other clauses, I would say that clause 14 reads :

> "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Industrial Disputes Act..."

I have already told that workers should not be brought to a point of harassment. There must be some guideline, and that guideline should be fixed by law or administrative circular so that the apprehensions as expressed by Mr. Sen and other hon. Members may be dispelled or may be removed from the minds of the workers. After all, we know that the policy of the Government is that we want to enhance the industrial efficiency, we want to increase productivity, and so we are pressing that there should be workers' participation in management. That is the only way in which we can increase efficiency and production. If they work under an apprehension, it will go against the efficiency, it will go against the increase of productivity.

Coming to other points, we see what the main, pressing problems are for coal production and the coal industry as such in the country today. If we see the Seventh Five-Year Plan, it has been rightly pointed out that in the Sixth Five-Year Plan a lot of emphasis was given to augment the production of coal in the country. Though we found that the consumption

□[Shri Santosh Kumar Sahu]

in the Sixth Five Year Plan was 139.23 million tonnes, the target was 155.70 million tonnes. But one thing is, inspite of our investment, inspite of our attempt to increase the production, qualitative improvement has not been there. The main consumers of the coal industry are today the power, the steel and the cement industries. As has been rightly pointed out by the mover of the statutory Resolution, Mr. Chaturanan Mishra, we have not increased the production in the underground mining sector, coking coal or quality coal is not coming, as a result of which we have to import it into this country. We have to depend upon imported coal, and we are draining our heavy foreign exchange.

In this country where coal is abundant, unfortunately, Madam, I say it with a lot of emphasis, that proper planning has not been made for development of coal as an alternative source of energy in this country. Probably we could have developed an indigenous methodology. Though a lot of research and development has been done for petroleum and other things—their lobby is stronger—coal has not found a proper place up till now in this country.

Today we want to preserve the natural environment. If we want to cut a tree, as the Planning Commission has rightly pointed out in the Seventh Five Year Plan the objective should be that we have to cut down the import of coal. We have to invest more, we have to instal more washing plants so that by beneficiation we can improve coal so that it can be utilised by steel factories and other factories and other consumers. We can satisfy the consumers.

Then the other priority is this. The common man in the country is crying for fuel. The tree he is felling is now going to vanish from the country. Now there is a huge cry for protection of natural environment. We would like to provide source of energy. Electricity is not there in every village. He cannot take hot plates and ovens for cooking. So, as an alternative source we have to think of cheap coal to be provided for every home. For that new indigenous research is to be provided. Cheap coal and other things must be provided to every home for cooking. That can save two things for the nation. That can bring new utilisation of cheap coal which is abundant in our country and that can save the natural environment. That can save the granary of our country.

That can save the climate from destruction of the natural habitat in our country. These should be given top priority in the coal planning in our country. These are very important things in our country.

Then, coming to another point, though the Bill, has has been rightly said by the Minister, is to plug the loopholes, I say, Madam, through you, to the hon. Minister that the Law only cannot stop all the loopholes. The financial management in the coal mines itself has been exposed. I specially draw your attention to the recent event. This has been exposed in Parliament. It has been published in the newspapers. I read from a cutting of the INDIAN EXPRESS dated 7th November, 1986, which reports under the caption FORMER CHIEFS OF CIL AND SUBSIDIARY COOKED UP ACCOUNTS :

> "The Chief executives of Coal India Ltd. and two subsidiary companies, Bharat Coking Coal and Western Coal Field Ltd., have deliberately exaggerated the performance of the Company by manipulating the accounts."

Imagine, if this is done at the highest level, where can we have the accountability ? As the Finance Minister has said it is necessary that from the very beginning we start with the zero budgeting, where the performance of the last year and the ac-

countability of the executive will be reflected. That is the latest process which must be introduced in the Coal India at least. With this, the manipulation in the future will be stopped. If we go further deep into it, we will find probably the Supreme Court has pointed out to the question of payment of relief. But the 84th Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General is very clear that the assets acquired after the nationalisation are not clear. So, how can that become the basis for paying compensation? That is the purpose for which this Bill has been brought forward.

In the absence of this Bill the Government will be forced to make unnecessary double compensation. So, I am at one with Sathe Ji, our dynamic Minister, that in this industry certain novel methodology in finance management and in workers' participation will have to be introduced so that there is efficiency in the industry and also that it comes out of the crisis which it is facing.

Coal is called 'black diamond' because it has a great potential for the development of our country. Therefore, it should be given proper place in the future planned development of our economy, so that it is available to the household consumers at cheap rates, and it is properly utilised in the generation of thermal power, which will bring light to our homes and develop our industries.

Since this Bill is very innocuous and its purpose is very limited to plug the loopholes and to avoid double payment I hope the hon. Members from this side and the other side will support it.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM : The judicial pronouncement of the Supreme Court regarding the interpretation of certain provisions in this Act necessitated a few amendments.

The Ordinance was promulgated by the President on 7th October, 1986. Now, the Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance with some more amendments. These amendments are found necessary to remove certain ambiguities and difficulties in implementation of this Act. They are the need of the hour. They are in the interest of the industry. Otherwise double payment has to be made to the colliery owners.

As far as the Bill is concerned, there is nothing to differ with the Government and we have to sail with the Ministry. So, I take this opportunity to say a few words about the dismal and disdainful condition of the coal industry. We are claiming pride by saying that we are the sixth in the world so far as coal reserves are concerned. When you examine the total production of coal and productivity of the labour the cost of production of coal, our record is very disappointing. We have in that demonstrated a dismal picture to the world. It is running at a loss ever since. The mines were nationalised in the year 1972. The accumulated losg as reported in the press exceeds Rs. 1,500 crores at the end of this financial year.

What are the reasons for this state of affairs? Who are responsible for these conditions. If we analyse these factors, so many unpleasant things are revealed to our notice. The low productivity of the labour, a large body of surplus labour, absence of upgrade technology, lack of effective internal audit system, acknowledged mfia and approved absenteeism are mostly responsible for these deplorable conditions.

I think our hon. Minister himself has agreed to some extent to this diagnosis. While he explained about the low productivity of the labour, he has very often mentioned both in the press and the platform that 30,000 workers produce 150 M.T. of coal in Australia, but we employ 7½ lakh of workers to produce the same

□[Shri Aladi Aruna *alias* V. Arunachalam]

quantity. In Australia the productivity of the labour is 2.5 tonnes. But in Coal India Ltd., it is only 0.86 tonnes.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL (Gujarat) : In Australia per worker it is 15 tonnes per day.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM : Anyway whatever I got I am telling. It is reported in the press that in Australia the productivity of the labour is 2.5 tonnes, but in Coal India Ltd., it is only 0.86 tonnes. Our Minister has assured that the productivity will be increased from 0.86 tonnes to 0.94 tonnes in 1988-89 and 1.2 tonnes in 1989-90. We are very happy with this ambition. But the factual position is quite opposite. The productivity capacity of the labour is declining. If the productivity capacity per worker is now 0.86 tonnes, that is, for 1985-86, then, it will be reduced to 0.84 tonnes in the year 1986-87. So there is no chance of increasing the productivity of the labour. In 1983-84 our production was 138 million tonnes. It was increased to 147 million tonnes in 1984-85. Though we have abundant of resources unprecedented surplus of labour, neither we have produced a required quantum of coal nor we have achieved the target. There is no difference of opinion about the discontented position of the coalmine industry. But the officials in the top level in order to misguide the nation, public and the Government they are giving a false picture.

Madam, the sub-group of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to this Ministry, which investigated the profit of Rs. 13.33 crores as claimed by Coal India Ltd., has said that it was a false one. Instead it has incurred a loss to the extent of Rs. 78 crores. I would like to know whether the Government has taken any action against those officers. In the Consultative Committee it was agreed with the findings of the sub-group and said it was a calculated fraud on the part of the officials to mislead the public and the Government. But so far no action has been taken against those officers. Instead, as mentioned by my colleague belonging CPI (M) that these officers have been awarded with elevated posts.

Madam, I think, it is also appropriate to say something about the requirement of coal for our State. I have already represented this matter to the hon. Minister in person. He has assured me that supply of coal from the Coal India Ltd., is not at all regular and adequate and he would look into the matter. It is needless to say about the quality of coal you supply to the thermal stations. The quality of our coal contains more than 50 per cent of ash. More than that, what is alarming is that Coal India is supplying he coal like fraud merchant stones. Sir, in Tuticerin Thermal Power Station alone, we are storing the stone supplied with coal for worth Rs. 3 crores. We are asking the Coal India Limited to reimburse for these fraudulen acts but Coal India has not taken any action or responded positively.

Madam, the Electricity Board of Tamil Nadu has proposed to commision a thermal power station at Mettur. The Mettur thermal power station has been set up on the basis of coal supplied from Singareni coal fields but unfortunately the Singareni coal fields have not been developed as scheduled. So to commission the work in Mettur thermal power station, now the Electricity Board of Tamil Nadu has diverted the coal from Ennore. So, Ennore is forced to get the supply from Orissa with an additional cost of Rs. 320 per tonne. Sir, the total loss because of the transport from Orissa to Ennore thermal power station per year is nearly Rs. 15 crores. Sir, to reduce the losses and produce more power, supply of coal is neces-

sary to the thermal power stations of Tamil Nadu. As far as hydel power is concerned, our present position is very miserable. It is a monsoon season. (*Time bell , rings*) Madam, I will take two minutes. In November and December, there is a monsoon season in Tamil Nadu but the monsoon is not active in Tamil Nadu. There is a total failure of monsoon. This is the time in which we used to get maximum hydel power. You kindly go through the record. Now, the generation of hydel power is very negligible. Now, we are forced to generate more thermal power. You know well, Tamil Nadu is entitled to get thermal power to extent of 25 per cent in Ramagundam but the national grid work has not been completed. That is why, we are getting only 15 per cent of the power generated from Ramagundam. Therefore, Madam, our position, in any way, is not good to meet the demands. That is why, to have the regular supply of coal, our Government is insisting repeatedly to the Government of India to get permission to import coal from Australia. I need not say that coal from Australia is having the content of 6 per cent of ash and in quality too, it is superior and its price is also lowest. But the Government of India is not permitting the Government of Tamil Nadu to import coal from Australia. A question was put by my hon. friend, Mr. Wilson and the Minister has given the answer in negative. But at the same time the Government of India have allowed Steel Authority of India Limited to import coal from Australia to the extent of 3 million tonnes. The SAIL is getting crores and crores of rupees from the Centre. Even now, it is getting aid, credit facilities from U.S.S.R. Despite all these favourable positions, you allowed the Steel Authority of India to import coal. But you are not permitting the Government of Tamil Nadu to import coal from Australia. Therefore, before I conclude my speech, I appeal to the hon. Minister that immediate arrangement should be made to give supply of coal to thermal stations in Tamil Nadu and I also honestly request the hon. Minister concerned to recommend our case to import the coal from Australia. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI THANGABAALU (Tamil Nadu) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to support the Coal Mines Nationalisation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1986.

Madam Deputy Chairman, I do not want to make a long speech or I do not want to take much time of the House. I want to make one observation only. In fact, this Bill contains all the necessary requirements which are needed for the Government to make an efficient department. Our dynamic Minister, hon. Satheji, is for it, and I welcome his endeavour.

Madam, I would like to make some observations regarding India's position in relation to China and other countries which are involved in coal production. First of all, I may say that China also is a major coal-producing country like us. There about 97 per cent of the coal is produced in underground mines. The hon. Member, Mr. Chaturanan Mishra, said that we have got a lot of underground mines and he asked why we are not utilising them. Now, the average output per man-shift in China is about 2 tonnes and the average earning of a coal worker in China is about Rs. 12 per tonne. Therefore, his total income per day is Rs. 24. In India it is a totally different picture. In will say about that later. Our hon. Minister and the Ministry of Coal sent a team in March 1986 to Australia to find out what is happening over there at the production level, how the Australian people are producing coal and how their method may be useful to us. That report states very categorically certain very important facts which will open the eyes of our working class as well as our politicians.

[Shri Thangabaalu]

Madam, the fact remains that in terms of per capita availability, our coal production is far from satisfactory. Other Members have mentioned it, but they say that the present situation or the environment itself in India is not satisfactory, and that is why we are not able to produce coal in an effective manner. It is a totally wrong picture that they are giving. Here I have to mention certain facts. At the time of nationalisation in 1972-73, our country was producing about 77 million tonnes, and the cost of production per tonne at that time was Rs. 47. The wage of the worker at that time was Rs. 16 a day or about Rs. 400 per month. Out investment in the coal sector at that time was around Rs. 50 crores. The number of workers was 5,50,000 at that time. Madam Deputy Chairman, in the past 13 years since the nationalisation, we have invested around Rs. 6,000 crores in the coal sector, that is about 120 times in the investment before nationalisation. Now the production has doubled; from 77 million tonnes, it has gone up to 154 million tonnes. Now each workers is getting Rs. 98 per day to day. Approximately he is getting Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,400 every month. But an important fact is that the output per man-shift is very much less as compared to other countries, and instead of increasing production, it has decreased. From 0.054 tonne it has gone down to 0.052 tonne during this period. This is only about underground mines.

Now I will come to the open-cut mines. The situation in the open-cut mines is no different. Madam, in India the coal-bearing areas are Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. In these places we are doing open-cut mining. There production has not exceeded four to five tonnes or an average per man shift. Line in Australia in India too open-cut mining accounts for half the coal output. Our friends on the other side have been saying that we have not created any conditions. I would like to tell them, from Rs. 16 we are now paying Rs. 98; in Australia OMS is more than 25 tonnes but in India it is 4 to 5 tonnes; in Australia about 30,000 workers are producing 145 MT of coal but here we have got six lakh people employed and they are producing less than what the 30,000 workers are producing in Australia, that is, 134 MT. My friend, Mr. Aladi Aruna, pointed out that Singareni Coalfields were not functioning effectively, there at present 1,80,000 people are producing only 14 MT. This is not the factual condition in the country today. We have invested around Rs. 1300 crores in the last 13 years after nationalisation. The price of coal is not matching the cost of production which is increasing. Even after the increase of coal price from Rs. 180 to Rs. 210, the Government of India every year is faced with a loss of 300 to 400 crores. This is one factor. Then, as you are aware, coal is a very important factor in electricity generation. If coal prices are going up, naturally electricity and through electricity other industrial products and also agricultural products will be forced to invest a lot of money. Here I would like to point out one thing. Our friends on the other side, "Only because of the Government's action we are not able to effectively produce coal." No, it is wrong to say that. In our country our organised labour sector is not working effectively in the interests of the Government, in the interests of the people. What only 30,000 people are able to produce in Australia, as many as 6 lakh people are not able to produce in our country. It shows not our inability but it shows the workers' non-interest in public good. We have already invested Rs. 1300 crores but we are losing Rs. 300 to 400 crores every year. Is it not a wastage ? Is not the working class accountable ? Is not the management accountable ? Our friends said the manage-

ment has committed mistakes. Yes, I admit. But what is the working class doing? They are equally committing mistakes by not working in national interest or by working against national interest, in our country. So this kind of mania should be avoided. When the honourable Minister speaks, he gives his figures. Our friends in the opposite side say you are going against public interest. What is public interest? Public sector is intended for advancement for producing more in the public interest only. At the same time they also say Government is avoiding public sector and is going in for private sector. It is not true. Our Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, our previous Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi or our honourable Minister Satheji, never said on any platform nor in Parliament, that they were not for public stctor. At the same time we are not against private sector. The public sector and the private sector both must be accountable. What is public sector? Government is public sector, 90 per cent of the investment is the Government money which is involved. And, Madam, the participation of the banks is involved and the money coming from the public is also there. Therefore, I would ask the Minister whether he will take effective steps to contain the anomaly which is taking place in the public sector. The management and the workers must be informed that they should play their important and rightful role in the developmental activities of this country and that they should not waste the country's economic wealth. I would like to pose another question also. In the coal sector, Madam, the workers are now getting Rs. 98/- in 72-73. But what about the agricultural workers? Ninety per cent of the people in this country are agriculturists and agricultural workers. The Government says that it wants to implement a wage policy. It is being implemented? From State to State the daily wages differ in respect of the agricultural workers. In Punjab, it is Rs. 35/-; in Tamil Nadu, it is Rs. 12/-; and, in Andhra Pradesh, it is Rs. 18/-. So, this sort of variation is there. Do you agree to parity of wages between industrial workers and agricultural workers? The agricultural workers are the real producers and if they are not producing foodgrains, nobody can live in this country and you cannot do anything at all. This sector which is the unorganised sector is not helped by the people at all. I, therefore, appeal to the Minister to take cognizance of this fact. The Government should take care of the agricultural workers who constitute the unorganised sector. They are playing a very important role in the development of this country.

With these words, Madam, I support the Bill and I request the honourable Minister to take necessary steps to see that the coal production in the country comes up to the expectations of the Government and that the coal mine workers play their role well. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Prabhakar Rao Kalavala.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What about the statement on Punjab?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will be made after some time.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Why not now? The Minister of State has come.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are no copies, it seems. If there are no copies, then you will not be able to ask for clarifications.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: If no clarifications can be asked today, let that statement be read out. I think that can be done.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All right. Yes, Mr. Panigrahi.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

RE. KILLINGS OF INNOCENT BUS PASSENGERS IN PUNJAB ON NOVEMBER 30, 1986.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : Madam, it is with a deep sense of sorrow and anguish that I wish to inform the House about the ghastly killing of innocent persons in district Hoshiarpur on 30th November 1986.

According to the information furnished by the State Government, a PEPSU Roadways Transport Corporation bus was plying from Faridkot to Pathankot on the 30th November 1986. When the bus reached near village Bhagol at about 5.15 P.M., the bus was forcibly diverted to the link road in the boundary of the above village. After travelling about 1 km., the bus was stopped by four terrorists who were also in the bus. The terrorists opened fire on passengers as a result of which 15 passengers died in the bus while 7 passengers were killed when they were trying to run away. Eight passengers were injured.

It appears that the terrorists had boarded the bus at the bus stop of Village Jajowal, District Hoshiarpur. After committing the crime, the culprits escaped on scooters. Police officers rushed to the scene of the incident. Combing operations by para-military forces and the police were started to apprehend the culprits. All police stations in the State have been alerted and intensive patrolling is being conducted.

I am sure that this house will join me in condemning such dastardly acts of violence which create disaffection and misunderstanding among different sections of society and in conveying our deep sympathies to the bereaved families. The Government is determined to stamp out terrorism. At the same time, I would appeal to all communities and all sections of public opinion to work together for foiling the evil designs of the terrorist and anti-national forces.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदया, सवाल यह है कि केन्द्र सरकार क्या करने जा रही है इस मामले में ? इस पर बयान बिल्कुल चुप है । सबेरे मैंने मामला उठाया था कि इस बस में कोई सिक्योरिटी गार्ड नहीं था। उस पर कोई रोशनी नहीं डाली गयी है। यह तो रद्दी की टोकरी में फेंक देने लायक बयान है ।

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh) : It is nothing more than what we read in the nowspapers.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : जो अखबार में बात आती है वही आपकी कहनी है ।

(व्यवधान)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (MAHARASHTRA) : It is shameful statement by the Government. They must be ashamed of it.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : इससे ज्यादा खबर तो लोगों को समाचार पत्रों से मिल गयी है ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या यह सच है कि आज लोग आतंकवादियों द्वारा मारे गये हैं, क्या आज पंजाब में 4 और लोगों की हत्या हो गयी है, क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह भी पता है ?

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : यह खबर आई है अभी। यह खबर अभी टेलीप्रिंटर पर आई है ।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (WEST BENGAL) : This silence on the part of the Government is extremely shocking. I want to know what do they want to do ?